

Ackerman 27-15-1-13-11-2

Remarks

Reconsideration of amended claims 29-38 is respectfully requested.

In the Interview Summary dated November 19, 2003 (application No. 12), the Examiner stated that the "finding" and "determining" steps of claim 29 rendered the claim "unexamined in that it is virtually impossible to determine the scope of the invention". The Examiner further commented that independent claim 36 was drawn to a "use", and not an "apparatus"

In response, applicants have amended independent claims 29 and 36 (as well as other relevant dependent claims) to more clearly define the subject matter of the present invention. The support for the amendments to independent method claim 29 may be found in the specification beginning at page 7, line 23, as well as FIG. 6. The support for the amendments to independent claim 36, particularly the inclusion of the "program storage media" may be found in the specification beginning at page 10, line 17.

Applicants believe that with the above-described amendments, claims 29-38 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to review these claims and find the case ready to issue. If for any reason the Examiner does not agree that the case is ready to issue and that an interview or telephone conversation would further the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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